

The Honorable Frederick H. Mueller,
The Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Mr. John Green, Director, Office of Technical Services of your Department has requested us to clarify our position in regard to translation of Russian scientific works, especially in view of Press comment about the work and intentions in this field of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This Agency must translate Soviet publications for intelligence purposes, but in doing so we have always recognized the potential value of this material to private researchers, universities, and business. Therefore, over the years we have consistently channeled copies of such translations, without attribution to the Agency, to repositories such as the Library of Congress or the Library of the Central Intelligence Agency where they would be available to the public.

As to the recent Associated Press dispatch of 19 January 1958, dateline Philadelphia, stating that the Central Intelligence Agency would like to get rid of the job of translating and abstracting Russian literature and turn it over to someone else, "the statement has no foundation. Much more useful material is available in Soviet publications than can be translated by existing and known planned facilities. The translation workload of the Central Intelligence Agency will not be lessened in any way by the augmentation planned by your Department. The result will be, however, that more of this valuable field would be made available to U. S. science and industry.

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We shall be pleased to cooperate with your Department in this proposed endeavor by providing copies of translations which we undertake from Russian scientific and technical publications.

Incretly,

cc: [redacted]

J. P. Cabeil
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Director

FDD/OC/JJB:gw (5 Feb 58)

OGC/LC:JSW:mks (6 Feb 58)

OGC/LC:JSW:jeb (7 Feb 58)

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